

AARP Chapter 2426

Minutes from the June 21st, 2017 Meeting

President **Petr Skalnik** called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

Vice-President **Elaine Benton** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements: The next regular Chapter meeting will be on **July 19th, 2017 @ 1:00PM** at the South Austin Senior Activity Center. The next Board meeting will be on **Wednesday, July 26th** at the Manchaca Road Branch of the Austin Public Library @ 10:00 am.

Special Note: Due to construction activities, the **AARP Day** has been postponed until August 17th.

Special Request

Dr. Tracie Harrison, professor of Adult Health Nursing @ UT Austin, School of Nursing, announced that they will be conducting a follow-up study concerning Arthritis and Aging With a Disability in the female Hispanic population. Areas to be studied are whether elderly Hispanic women manage disabilities different from the non-hispanic population; the examination blood screens to determine whether there exist any differences in the actions of disability causing agents and what roles do age, gender as well as family cohesion play in the management of the disability. There will be a \$50 stipend paid to participants and the interviews will be held at the patient's home. **Dr. Harrison** is also the director of the Center for Excellence in Long Term Care funded by the Texas Health & Human Services Commission.

Old Business: Pete explained what happened at the last meeting where one of the speakers had to be asked to halt her presentation. The reason was that the subject being discussed (Crypto currency/Bitcoins) had switched from being informative to one of a commercial offering in nature, which is not allowed by AARP by-laws.

Minutes

The minutes of the May general meeting were read and approved.

Program

Tim Morstead and Blake Hutson of the advocacy staff from Texas AARP provided a legislative update at our June meeting. Although there are many issues still to be fought for, they noted success stories in the passage of bills such as: Major reforms to improve the quality of care in nursing homes; New rights for unpaid family caregivers; Bills to fight elder financial exploitation; Legislation clarifying powers of attorney and guardianships; Measures bolstering consumers' power to prevent and challenge surprise medical bills; and Telehealth legislation to allow patients to meet with physicians electronically.

Treasurer's Report

Barbara Fetonte reported that the Checking Account was **\$2,438.20**, the Travel Account was **\$2,168.38** and the Savings Account remained at **\$25.00**

Committee Reports

Community Service Committee: Pat Thomas reported that the next Roll and Stroll is this Friday June 23rd. We will meet at the Wheatsville Co-op South at 3:00 p.m. and catch the #803 to eat at Maudie's at the Triangle, 4600 West Guadalupe Street. After dinner, travel to the North Lamar Central Market for a free Western Swing Band concert on the patio. This Roll & Stroll adventure will cost \$1.25 for a day pass. Also there will be an opportunity to see some summer stock plays such as Annie Get Your Gun and Spamalot at various venues later this summer.

Sunshine Committee: Elaine Benton reported three birthdays and three anniversaries(Dolores and Mario Macaluso; Pete and Ann Skalnik and Chinell Williams)

Membership Committee: Margaret Hughes reported that there were **59 members** and **19 Guests** attending today's meeting. They were: **Frances and Gilbert Puga, Karen Polasek, Andres Trimino, Appolonia King, Georgia McCoy, Thelma McPhail, Barbara Lighthover, Vangie Ramos, Dorothy Scrmadow, Karen Matthews, Whitney Thurman, Rebecca Gillinger and Margaret Levering.**

Program Committee: Pete reported we are in need of a new chairperson. All of the programs for the coming year are already scheduled, so this committee is currently in great shape.

Travel Committee: Mario Macaluso is planning for a trip to visit the Painted Churches of Texas near Schulenburg on August 29th. Cost of the trip is \$56 which includes the bus fare, a personal guide, a driver's tip and lunch at the Oak Ridge Smoke House Restaurant. Also on the travel agenda is a trip to Octoberfest in the fall and December trip to Clifton, Texas on December 2nd to enjoy a Norwegian Christmas celebration.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

(APPROVED 7/19/2017)

Ed Gonzales, Secretary